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BANKS NOT ALLOWED TO CASH FOREIGN CURRENCY CHECKS

PY061731 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1505 GMT 5 Oct 83

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 5 Oct (NA) -- In a communique issued this morning, the Argentine Central Bank ordered all banks to cash all foreign currency checks in Argentine pesos. This measure was in fact, already being implemented by several local banks but it was not mandatory until today.

Therefore, all checks or money orders issued in dollars or in other foreign currencies cannot be cashed into dollars. Banks can only cash the equivalent emount in Argentine pesos based on the official daily exchange rate.

Foreign Accounts Blocked

PY061736 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 0035 GMT 6 Oct 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Oct (NA) -- The Executive Branch tonight blocked for 60 days the withdrawals of time deposits in foreign currency whose terms expire between now and 4 December. This measure was adopted through law No 22937, and it is due to "the serious emergency that the foreign sector of the national economy is confronting" which "has made it impossible for the Central Bank to keep paying out of reserves a large number of commercial and financial operations."

The law adds that "this measure also prevents the adverse effects on the foreign sector caused by the suspension of the negotiations to refinance the foreign debt." It adds that the objective "is to try to avoid Central Bank intervention which may result in a nationalization of these deposits, which in the end may lead to an increase of over $600 million in the already huge foreign debt."

ARMY COMMAND BACKS RENEGOTIATION OF FOREIGN DEBT

PY061414 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 6 Oct 83

[Text] The Argentine Army will back the implementation of all necessary measures to maintain the nation's dignity and prestige, as well as public order, peace, productive activities, and public tranquillity. Also, the Argentine Army ratifies its decision to ensure the institutionalization of the nation in accordance with the plan which has been opportunely established. This is a decision stated in a communique issued by the Army Command after a meeting of high-ranking commanders presided over by Army Commander in Chief General Cristino Nicolaides. The text of the communique reads:

The Argentine Army wishes to ratify its decision to achieve the institutionalization of the nation in keeping with the opportunely established timetable. This decision, which is shared by most Argentine people, is meeting the irresponsible opposition of certain sectors and persons who, using the renegotiation of our foreign debt as a pretext, have created an atmosphere of anxiety and skepticism which is seriously jeopardizing the institutionalization of the nation.

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PERU-COLOMBIAN-BOLIVIA ANTI-COCAINE FRONT

PY222159 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2246 GMT 21 Oct 83

[Text] Lima, 21 Oct (EFE) -- Peru, Colombia and Bolivia will set up a front against cocaine trafficking since the United Nations has been delaying the establishment of a regional antidrug bureau in Lima as had been agreed.

According to sources in the office of the Peruvian attorney general, this UN antidrug bureau is under the jurisdiction of the UN Nartotics Fund, and it should have been set up 1 year ago. The spokesman for the attorney general's office said that in view of the sluggishness of the United Nations, it was decided at a recent meeting in Bogota to set up an antidrug front made up of the Bolivian antidrug commission, the office of the Colombian attorney general, and the office of the Peruvian attorney general.

All this hullabaloo over the drug business arose from the recent escape of four drug traffickers, former Colombian pilots, from a prison in the Peruvian jungle area, which led to the uncovering of the corruption existing in Peru's prisons and among certain court members.

The Peruvian Chamber of Deputies stated last night that the escape had undermined Peru's image abroad, and added that the Colombian drug traffickers are constantly violating local sovereignty by flying into Peru's Amazon jungle to pick up cocaine.

Upon his arrival last night in Tarapoto city, from where the Colombian drug traffickers broke out (allegedly after pay ing $1 million), Peruvian Attorney General Miguel Cavero blamed local Judge Washington Castillo and seven prison guards for the escape.

IA-ECOSOC DEPLORES PANAMA CANAL TOLL INCREASE

PY212125 Asuncion PATRIA in Spanish 20 Oct 83 p 6

[Text] Delegates of Latin American countries attending the Inter-American Economic and Social Council (IA-ECOSOC) meeting yesterday deplored the implementation of a 9.8 percent increase in the Panama Canal toll.

The first commission of the 18th IA-ECOSOC meeting, which will close in this capital tomorrow, approved a draft resolution disagreeing with the toll hike and urging the U.S. Government to review the increase in tolls and the additional increase resulting from the system of transit reserves [reserves de transito], without which the system of preferential treatment for the transit of perishable commodities through the canal could still be improved. The U.S. delegation stated its opposition for the record and the resolution was approved.

The canal hike was implemented in March and the transit reserves system was put into effect the following month.

"We do not seek preferential treatment, but confirmation that the rates we are paying are truly in keeping with the cost of the service," said Chilean Ambassador to the OAS Pedro Daza during the draft resolution debate.

The Latin American countries made it clear that recent U.S. measures on the canal "severely affect the foreign trade" of the users in the region and reiterated that "the Panama Canal cannot be operated as a profitable enterprise and that it is necessary to establish and specify the costs which the Latin American consumers will have to pay."

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